

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 00955 120125Z

15

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1047

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTERS COMMENT

ON SECURITY ISSUES

1. SUMMARY: IN JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THREE-HOUR
MARCH 10 MEETING, NEW ZEALAND PM MULDOON AND AUSTRALIAN
PM FRASER EMPHASIZED THEIR CONCERN ABOUT INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY PROBLEMS AND THE NEED FOR CONTINUED US INVOLVEMENT
IN PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS.

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PAGE 02 WELLIN 00955 120125Z

BOTH WERE CRITICAL OF

SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN.

END SUMMARY.

2. MULDOON NOTED SOUTH EAST ASIA HAD SEEN WAR OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER GOING ON FOR SOME 30 YEARS. WAR HAD ENDED BUT INSURGENCY CONTINUES. IF SITUATION SETTLES DOWN PEACEFULLY, ALL WOULD BE WELL AND GOOD. "BUT, ONE LOOKS WITH SOME ALARM AT THE GLOBAL IMPERIALISM OF THE SOVIET UNION MANIFEST IN ANGOLA AT THE PRESENT TIME AND I THINK IT WOULD BE NAIVE TO SUGGEST THAT, LOOKING OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE NO TENSION, NO ALARM, POSSIBLY EVEN NO MOVEMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. IT'S THE DUTY OF THE GOA AND GNZ TO PREPARE THEMSELVES AGAINST ANY FORESEEABLE EVENTUALITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE." MULDOON ALSO EMPHASIZED NEED FOR GNZ/GOA DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH FRIENDS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND "POSITIVE ATTENTION TO ANZUS WHICH IS STILL VITALLY IMPORTANT TO US."

3. FRASER'S COMMENTS FOCUSED ON SUPERPOWER RELATIONSHIPS AND INDIAN OCEAN. HE SAID, "BY VIRTUALLY ABANDONING THE USE OF THE TERM (DETENTE), THE US HAS SHOWN CLEARLY THAT IT REGARDS THE USE OF THE WORD AS INAPPROPRIATE AND THAT, IN FACT, HAS LONG BEEN MY OWN VIEW. AND WHEN YOU SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AFRICA AND THE POSSIBILITIES THAT CAN FLARE OUT OF THAT, THE INCREASING SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND WHAT CAN FLARE OUT OF THAT -- THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY MATTERS THAT MUST BE OF CONCERN." FRASER NOTED IMPORTANCE OF INDIAN OCEAN WITH REGARD TO SUPPLY OF OIL TO COUNTRIES TO ITS EAST AND STATED, "US NAVAL CAPACITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN IS IMPORTANT IN THAT CONTEXT."

4. ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT ANZUS TREATY MIGHT HAVE BEEN JEOPARDISED IF NPW VISITS TO NEW ZEALAND WERE NOT ALLOWED, MULDOON SAID, "POTENTIALLY, IT COULD HAVE BEEN IN THE US WHERE THERE IS A VERY STRONG LOBBY OPPOSING GLOBAL INVOLVEMENT." HE NOTED THAT CODELL RANDALL AND CODEL HOLLINGS/GRIFFIN "ASKED IN THE NICEST POSSIBLE WAY" IF GNZ REGARDED ANZUS AS IMPORTANT. "AND WE SAID IT'S VITAL." MULDOON TIED ANZUS INTO GLOBAL CONTEXT SAYING, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 WELLIN 00955 120125Z

"YOU CAN'T CUT OUT ONE PART OF THE GLOVE AND SAY, WELL, LET WHAT MAY HAPPEN DOWN THERE AND WE'LL CONCENTRATE ON THE REST. THAT WOULD BE A FALLACIOUS ARGUMENT."

5. EMBASSY POUCHING COPIES OF TRANSCRIPT TO EA/ANP, AMEMBASSY CANBERRA AND CINCPAC POLAD. SELDEN

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